

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 2006  
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2006  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 17, 2006  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 12, 2006  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2006  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1478**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Frommer**

February 22, 2005

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An act to add Section 4435 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to developmental services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1478, as amended, Frommer. Developmental services.

Existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, establishes the State Department of Developmental Services and sets forth its duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the administration and oversight of the state developmental centers and programs relating to persons with developmental disabilities. Existing law requires the department to allocate funds to private nonprofit regional centers for the provision of community services and support for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Existing law requires the department to develop evaluation and diagnostic procedures for the diagnosis of autism disorder and other autistic *autism* spectrum disorders.

This bill would, in addition, require the department, in consultation with specified state departments, to develop guidelines for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders and to disseminate the information to parents.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4435 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:  
3 4435. (a) The department, in consultation with the State  
4 Department of Education, the Department of Managed Health  
5 Care, the Department of Insurance, the State Department of  
6 Health Services, the State Department of Social Services, the  
7 State Department of Mental Health, one or more representatives  
8 of the regional centers, *parents of children with autism, autism*  
9 *service advocacy organizations*, and other agencies as  
10 appropriate, shall develop guidelines for the treatment of autism  
11 spectrum disorders in children that shall include, at a minimum,  
12 all of the following:  
13 (1) An identification and description of the different types of  
14 interventions appropriate for autism spectrum disorders,  
15 including, but not limited to, all of the following:  
16 (A) Speech and language therapy.  
17 (B) Behavioral therapy.  
18 (C) Play therapy.  
19 (D) Occupational therapy.  
20 (E) Psychotherapy.  
21 (F) Medication.  
22 (G) Tutoring.  
23 (H) Biomedical treatment.  
24 (2) An identification of the types of interventions that would  
25 be recommended as best practices according to the age and the  
26 particular needs of the consumer, based on the type of autism  
27 spectrum disorder. To the extent possible, the guidelines shall  
28 build upon the work already undertaken by the department in  
29 producing its Autism Spectrum Disorders Best Practice  
30 Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis and Assessment.

1 (3) For each type of intervention, an identification or  
2 description of the type of provider of the service, indicating  
3 whether there are special licenses or certifications required of the  
4 service provider.

5 (4) For each type of intervention, an identification of the  
6 potential sources available to pay for the intervention, including  
7 private health insurance, public health coverage programs,  
8 special education, developmental center and regional center  
9 funding, other public funding, and private payment.

10 (b) In developing the guidelines, the department shall seek  
11 input from experts in a variety of disciplines including, but not  
12 limited to, all of the following:

13 (1) Education.

14 (2) Special education.

15 (3) Mental health.

16 (4) County health services.

17 (5) Parents.

18 (6) Speech and language therapists.

19 (7) Occupational therapists.

20 (8) Behavioral therapists.

21 (9) Regional centers.

22 (10) Health insurance.

23 (c) The department shall disseminate the information  
24 contained in the guidelines in ways that are designed to  
25 maximize its usefulness to parents seeking services for their  
26 children. Examples for dissemination may include development  
27 of a brochure that can be provided to parents and a poster that  
28 can be displayed by providers.

29 (d) *It is the intent of the Legislature that the department be*  
30 *permitted to produce the guidelines authorized pursuant to this*  
31 *section, within the department's existing work on autism,*  
32 *provided there be a user-friendly format so that the guidelines*  
33 *are easy to understand for families seeking to find the most*  
34 *appropriate interventions for autism spectrum disorders.*